

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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## MORE MINISTERS FOR THE CHURCH

The Lutheran Church in British Guiana will eagerly welcome the arrival in May of three more candidates for ordination to the ministry: Paul Jagdar, Winston Bone and Desmond Hamlet. The men are concluding their three-year training at Waterloo Seminary, Canada, where they have been since their graduation from college in 1958.

The present programme of training for the ministry has been in effect since 1954. The programme consists of four years of undergraduate study at Inter-American University followed by three years of seminary training at Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

The arrival of the three men will be the second such event in as many years. Last year the Rev. R. John Singh returned from Northwestern Seminary, Minneapolis, to become the first locally-ordained national pastor since 1947. Next year four more graduates are expected to return from Canada increasing the staff of national ministers to ten in the short period of three years.

The arrival of the three men this year signifies a timely benefit for the work of the church, which for many years has been retarded for want of ministers to serve the swelling number of congregations. Three more of the church's parishes can now expect permanent pastors, and, what is most heartening, the church's ministry will

be able to exert inwardly and outwardly a decidedly more national influence in keeping with the growing national consciousness emerging throughout Guiana.

Of the three men returning the eldest in terms of both service and age is Mr. Jagdar, who was recruited for the ministry after some five years of service as a catechist and head teacher in the Canje Parish. He went directly to Waterloo College for his undergraduate training and was able to complete both his college and seminary work in six years.

Mr. Bone and Mr. Hamlet were recruited in 1954 and were enrolled that year at Inter-American University for their under-graduate work. In 1958 they entered the seminary in Canada. Mr. Bone at the time of his selection for the ministry held a post in the local civil service. Mr. Hamlet had served for several months at Seafield prior to his schooling.

The new ministers will be ordained June 14 at Calvary Church, Georgetown. For the ordinands the service will be the beginning of a high and solemn calling as parish pastors, and the culmination of years of hard study. For the church the event will offer inspiring evidence of God's answer to the prayer enjoined upon it by the Lord: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into the harvest."

## GUIANESE MINISTER RETURNS TO BRITISH GUIANA FROM UNITED STATES

### Rev. Clinton E. Chu to Arrive in June

The Rev. Clinton E. Chu, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril S. Chu, New Amsterdam, is returning to British Guiana in June to serve a parish here.

Pastor Chu had previously served for a year in Hawaii and Portland, Oregon with the Board of American Missions since his graduation from Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio in 1960. He recently applied for service in British Guiana and has accepted the call extended to him by the church.

Pastor Chu went to the United States in 1953 to study at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio prior to his entrance into the seminary. His studies abroad were sponsored privately.

Pastor Chu's return is an encouraging example of the willingness that is needed among more of Guiana's trained young men both in the ministry and the professions to return to their country and serve the growing spiritual and social needs of its people.

## GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW EBENEZER BUILDING

If it was felt in some quarters that the heavens just opened and the rains came down as a mighty river at the last service to be held in Ebenezer, there was a strong feeling that King Sol vied with Aquarius at the ground-breaking ceremony.

Under sweltering sun on Sunday, April 16, 1961, after the 9.00 a.m. service, over 200 persons young and old witnessed for the first time a ceremony of ground-breaking for a new build-

ing.

Highlighting the service was the occasion when the first spade of soil was upturned by Pastor Cox, then each vestryman present doing the same thing in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

What a truly appropriate service, thanking Almighty God and giving to Him the praise and the glory for our new building:

*(See page 7 for picture).*

## EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

New ground was broken in the field of Evangelism and Stewardship, when, for the first time in our church, a Workshop for Evangelism and stewardship was conducted April 19-20, 1961.

Attending the Workshop were Catechist F. B. Miller from Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Victoria,

East Coast, Demerara; Catechist A. Bourhan from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Fairfield, East Coast, Demerara; Lay Reader Arjoon Persaud from Bethany Lutheran Church, Airy Hall, East Coast, Demerara; and Catechist H. Kowlessar from Christ Lutheran Church, Seafield, West Coast, Berbice.

Conducting the Workshop were



## Evangelism and Stewardship— *Continued.*

Mr. C. S. Chu, Leader; Catechists S. Pillay, D. Totaram; Pastors E. B. Meyer and A. J. Henne.

Workers arrived at noon on Wednesday, April 19, and were taken over to the Springfield Guest House where they were taken care of for meals and lodging during the time of the Workshop.

Catechist Pillay touched off the Workshop to a good start. Some of the points which he left with the workers were :

1. Taking a Religious Census after making a map of the area to be surveyed.
2. Proper records of membership, Baptized, Confirmed, Communing, Sunday School and other organizations.
3. Planning Evangelistic or Revival Meetings.
4. Training lay visitors on calling.
5. Follow up visits after Evangelistic Meetings.
6. Our responsibilities to new members.

Catechist Totaram was very much to the point on Stewardship of Giving. At length, he described the methods he found helpful to him in keeping the financial records of his congregation. Above all, he stressed, that it was his belief that no method would work, unless the worker was willing to work it and first to practise what he was

going to ask the members of his congregation to participate in.

Workers also had the unique experience in joining with members of the visitation teams of Ebenezer as they visited that afternoon, inviting the public to their Crusade in the Lutheran Courts. At 7.30 p.m. they joined with the visitors of Ebenezer in their Prayer and Report Meeting, after which Pastor Henne provided a very beneficial half hour using the projector, showing the film strip "Ye Are My Witnesses."

The next day, Pastor Meyer used to full advantage, the Turn Over Drop Chart, using Section 4 "Instruction to Lay Visitors."

Towards the close of the Workshop Mr. Chu summed up on the various points made. He made it very clear that one's motivation for his Stewardship was because God **first** loved and **gave** His only begotten Son. He not only gave to us His Son, but also permitted His Son to die upon Calvary's Cross in order that we might be a redeemed people, through the shedding of His precious blood.

Many questions were addressed to the lecturers by the workers, which proved that they were very interested in the Workshop. The workers availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase from the Book Store, copies of "Stewardship in the New Testament Church" by Holmes Rolston and "Effective Evangelism" by Sweazy.

Though a small beginning, yet we believe much was accomplished. It is our hope and prayer, that many more workshops will be made available to our workers.

## LUTHERAN EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE

A highly successful Evangelistic Crusade was sponsored by Ebenezer Church, New Amsterdam, from April 24th to 29th. Open air Services were held each evening in the Lutheran Courts. More than one thousand people attended the meetings every night.

A large platform, well lighted and backed by a huge cross formed an excellent setting for the services. Gospel messages were brought by Pastor Wm. E. Cox and the Rev. Gordon Matthews. A seventy-five voice Ebenezer Choir under the direction of Mrs. Wm. E. Cox contributed special music each evening. Duets and solos by Mrs. Cox and Mr. Vernon Williams also added inspiration to the meetings.

A group of visitors about fifty strong, from the Ebenezer congregation made a house to house visit of all of New Amsterdam and the surrounding area the week before the crusade. These visits together with posters and radio and newspaper articles helped immensely to bring the crusade to the attention of the public. During the week prior to the Crusade prayer meetings were held every evening in the church. Letters received from many congregations in the United States made us aware that many Lutherans from that country were joining us in

our prayers on behalf of this effort.

A good many hours of work and planning went into the preparation for this venture, and a great number of people of Ebenezer Church were involved in it. Time and space does not permit us to mention everyone, but some deserve special recognition. The general chairman was the Rev. Gordon Matthews, member of the Ebenezer congregation. Mr. C. S. Chu served as chairman of the visitations committee; Mr. Walter Khan as chairman of the arrangements committee; and Mr. Daniel Ramnarine as Chairman of the publicity and promotion committee a special tribute needs to be given to Mr. P. J. Macaulay who gave more than three weeks of his time to erect the platform and benches. Without his untiring labours it would have been most difficult to carry out this crusade.

It is always difficult to determine the success of such a mission. Certainly the numbers that attended were an inspiration to all of us. But the real and lasting success will be seen in the life and spirit of Ebenezer Congregation in the weeks and months to come. If lives have been changed and strengthened, it will be reflected in the increased and more effective witness of Ebenezer Church to the entire community.

## COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP AT SKELDON

"Jesus Christ and Him Crucified" was the theme of the joint worship service held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Skeldon, Corentyne, as members of Emmanuel, St. Philips and members of the Canadian Mission Church, gathered in fellowship under the Cross of Christ. Truly it was a

momentous occasion. It was good to be gathered together to have such a fellowship on the glorious day of Good Friday. The Church was filled for this evening service and as we worshipped we all felt drawn closer to that Oneness in Faith, Hope and Love.

Catechist Kant R. Yerrakadu of



## Community Lenten Worship at Skeldon. — *Continued.*

the Guiana Presbyterian Church brought the message and the Rev. B. C. Lang was the Liturgist. The offering was sent to the Minister of Health and marked specially for the Handicapped children in B.G.

Next year 1962 the Canadian Mission Church at Skeldon will be host to another Good Friday Fellowship of

worship at the foot of the Cross.

May the love of Jesus Christ not only be at work within our own congregations but also in our fellowship with other Christian people throughout British Guiana so that all may know that in Christ all are One.

B. C. L.

## BOARD DECLARES MORATORIUM ON REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

The action taken by the Administrative Committee last February and reported to the Convention calling for "major constitutional adjustments prior to the 1962 Convention" was declared out of order by the Board of Foreign Missions in a communication received in April.

According to the Administrative Committee, a major revision of the constitution was prompted by the "more complex administrative task" and the inadequacy of the 1943 model for "present and future needs of the

church."

The Board ruled that before the three-year interim has expired for which the newly-formed Administrative Council is to function, any revision of the constitution is premature. As a result of the announcement the draft of the proposed constitution intended for circulation to convention delegates by 30th April has been indefinitely suspended. The announcement also cancels the special convention scheduled for August which was to consider the new constitution.

## PARISH BUDGET PLAN EMPHASISES URGENCY FOR CONGREGATIONS PAYING APPORTIONMENT MONTHLY

The Parish Budget Plan which was put into effect at the beginning of the year throughout the church has been moving forward at a slow pace. A survey of the parishes shows that congregations have not been quickened to the urgency of meeting their apportionment quotas monthly, and it is feared that continuing neglect of the monthly apportionment schedule as recommended by the church will result in serious deterioration of many of the church's

buildings.

The plan provides that parishes will be refunded each month an amount of money equal to one-fifth their monthly apportionment quota for local maintenance projects as soon as they forward their full monthly quota to the church.

To the end of April \$1,819 has been returned to the parishes for their maintenance requirements, re-

## Parish Budget Plan— *Continued.*

presenting only about 39% of the total maintenance funds actually available for the four-month period. As it is, 61% of the maintenance budget for the first four months has so far remained untapped, and the situation may well mean that necessary parish repairs are being left undone due to congregations' delay in making their monthly payments.

For the short period in which the plan has been in operation it has given a useful demonstration of the necessity of congregations paying their

apportionment instalments each month. Under the plan the old pattern of seasonal giving, still widespread in the rural districts, shall have to be quickly corrected if buildings in need of repairs are to spared irreparable damage through neglect.

Since the plan is new and contrary to the indifferent giving habits deeply ingrained in large sections of the church's membership, much of the responsibility for the slow progress of the plan falls on the workers and pastors who alone can most effectively re-educate the congregations.

## ASCENSION SCHOOL COMPOUND SCENE OF EIGHTEENTH LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION 10TH—13TH APRIL

Marked by the freshly coloured banners of the district Leagues and trimmed with lights by night, the grand Ascension Lutheran compound provided one of the most attractive settings for a Luther League Convention in many years. For many of the 160 Leaguers who registered for the Convention it was their first sight of the newest and largest Lutheran primary school located in the West Ruimveldt housing scheme.

The programme of the three-day convention reserved little more than four hours for business sessions, the major part being given to group study. Governed by a rather indefinite theme titled, "Why?", the convention intended to direct Leaguers' attention to some thought-exercising questions, any one of which, for a less ambitious programme committee, could have easily provided an adequate theme for an entire conven-

tion. At a time when too many question-marks may confront young minds, the problems posed by some of the questions ("How Can I Find God?", "Was Jesus Really God?" "Is The Bible Still Our Authority?") may well have been more than one convention could resolve.

Despite the overhanging question mark which symbolised the theme of the convention, the speakers made valiant and unusually studied efforts to restore some certainty to the programme, and to them has to go credit for whatever success the convention may have had in fortifying the Leaguers in their calling as young Christians.

The results of the 1960 objective, adoption of the budget, and election of officers for 1961 were the main matters on the business agenda. Contributions to the 1960 objective totalled \$1,028 of which \$500 was



## Luther League Convention — *Continued.*

set aside for the 1961 work camp project. Of the 48 Leagues reported in the church only three failed to contribute to the objective. The budget adopted for the year was \$920 designated primarily for convention subsidies and operating expenses of the synodical executive.

All the 1960 officers were re-elected to new terms: President Edward Sewdat (Skeldon), Vice-President Anthony Gobin (East Canje), Secretary Aziz Gafur (East Canje) and Treasurer Joseph Rampersaud (West Canje). Pastor E. B. Meyer was re-elected as pastoral advisor.

In a less formal business session Mr. Bissoon Sampat (Skeldon) and Miss Juliet Kowlessar (Triumph) were chosen "Mr." and "Miss" Luther League.

A highlight to the convention was the banquet which featured a menu of chicken currie, dholl and rice.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. Arthur Hemstock, Executive Director of the Sugar Producers Association. Ably commanding the attention of a steel band crazed audience, and after quietly suffering through two hours of too long banquet formalities, Mr. Hemstock hushed the filled hall with an inspiring parable in which Leaguers were enjoined to take seriously the need for brotherhood and hard work essential for a new and better Guiana.

Credit for providing the unusually complete facilities for the convention belonged to Hector Magalee, resident pastor, who worked tirelessly to prepare local arrangements. The site of the convention had been changed after short notice from the Berbice River to Ruimveldt, and what would have been a rustic unadorned setting in the interior turned out to be a sophisticated and attractive one in Georgetown's suburbs.



"Ebenezer Church members look on as Pastor W. E. Cox overturns first spadeful of earth at Groundbreaking for new Ebenezer Church, 16th April."



# Apportionment Figures for January to April, 1961.

Congregations	Apportionment Jan.—April.	Received By Church.
Nativity ... ..	\$ 108.34	\$150.00
Emmanuel ... ..	250.00	375.00
St. Philip ... ..	116.67	174.00
St. Matthias ... ..	75.00	114.00
St. Barnabas P.P. ... ..	83.34	69.00
St. Luke ... ..	179.17	72.00
St. Stephen ... ..	145.84	83.00
St. Michael ... ..	154.17	94.00
St. James ... ..	166.67	125.00
St. John ... ..	387.50	300.00
St. Peter ... ..	220.84	130.00
St. Bartholomew ... ..	137.50	104.00
Transfiguration ... ..	400.00	200.00
Holy Cross ... ..	104.17	106.26
Bethel ... ..	108.34	79.17
Ebenezer ... ..	1,670.84	734.42
St. Thomas ... ..	254.17	190.62
St. Timothy ... ..	366.67	256.98
Our Saviour ... ..	104.17	52.08
St. Clement ... ..	125.00	93.75
St. Mark ... ..	120.87	75.42
St. Catherine ... ..	83.34	41.68
Grace ... ..	233.34	210.00
Reformation ... ..	187.50	67.00
Atonement ... ..	104.17	6.75
Mount Hermon ... ..	300.00	67.00
St. Paul ... ..	379.17	185.00
Mt. Carmel ... ..	354.17	90.00
Hururu P.P. ... ..	54.17	22.00
Mt. Olivet ... ..	137.50	120.00
Riverside Chapel ... ..	—	23.00
Good Shepherd ... ..	304.17	44.00
Nazareth ... ..	212.50	24.00
Resurrection ... ..	112.50	48.13
Faith ... ..	137.50	12.00
Advent ... ..	241.67	77.00
Hope ... ..	137.50	38.00
Christ ... ..	195.84	20.00
Bethany ... ..	104.17	52.00
Bethlehem P.P. ... ..	100.00	32.47
St. Matthew ... ..	162.50	35.00
Holy Communion ... ..	133.34	30.00
Bee Hive P.P. ... ..	79.17	30.00
Salem ... ..	120.84	90.63
Messiah ... ..	141.67	115.00
Holy Trinity ... ..	166.67	92.00
St. Andrew ... ..	162.50	121.89
Sadhu Sundar Singh ... ..	145.87	109.38
St. Mary ... ..	95.87	49.00
Redeemer ... ..	358.34	180.00
Calvary ... ..	450.00	450.00
Epiphany ... ..	508.34	275.00
Ascension ... ..	162.50	77.26
Mount Zion ... ..	158.34	—
Vreed-en-Hoop P.P. ... ..	125.00	93.75

Stewardship Secretaries: C. S. Chu and D. R. Gebert.